

SUMMARY

The present Amendment and following remarks are responsive to the Office Action dated March 30, 2006. In the Office Action, claims 1-7 and 9-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chou* (U.S. Patent No. 6,017,140) in view of what the Examiner thought was Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (specification, page 11, lines 8-14). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of *Chou* and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of *Schmidt* (U.S. Patent No. 4,290,095). Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-15 will remain pending in this application.

REMARKS

Objections to the Drawings:

The Examiner objected to Figure 6 as not showing certain reference characters, including: "light bulb 60", "LED bulb(s) 61", "power sensor 23", "low-power indicator light 25", "safety switch 24", and "batteries 21". Applicants do not believe Fig. 6 should have received an objection since Fig. 6 shows inventive electronic circuit for carrying out the methodology of this invention as detailed in the flowcharts and disclosure elsewhere in the application. The discussion of Fig. 6 does not include reference numerals.

The March 30, 2006 Office Action further objected to acronyms and reference characters in the figures, specifically Fig. 6. Applicant has amended the specification to include better descriptions of these acronyms and reference characters and requests withdrawal of these objections. Further, the various indicia used in Fig. 6 are well known to those skilled in the electronics arts and are understood without further elaboration. Accordingly, no new matter has been added in the amended paragraph.

Response to the Claim Objections:

Claims 1, 10, and 11 were objected as being indefinite. Applicant traverses these objections and requests reconsideration.

The terms "available power," "first power," and "second power" in Claims 1, 10, and 11 are definite. Specifically, as detailed in the specification, the power source (batteries) has a limited amount of available power. This available power slowly decreases as the batteries are depleted or run down. The primary bulb operates at a first power and the LEDs (61, 62) operate at a second power that is lower than the first power. When the sensor detects that the available power has diminished below a point where the batteries can provide the higher first power to light the primary bulb, the sensor switches the batteries from the primary bulb to the LEDs (61, 62), which operate at the lower second power, which the batteries, although diminished, can still provide. These terms and explanations are drawn from the specification, providing clear and definite support for such claim terms. Accordingly, these claims are definite as written and the applied objections should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4-6, and 8-10 were objected to in the March 30, 2006 Office Action as indefinite as failing to introduce a translation of the abbreviation "LED". Since the specification has been amended to define this term, these objections should be removed. No new matter has been added. LED is widely known and understood to mean light emitting diode.

Response to the Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1-7 and 9-15 were rejected as under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chou* (U.S. Patent No. 6,017,140) in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chou* and Applicant's Admitted

Prior Art as applied to claims 1 and 6, and further in view of *Schmidt* (U.S. Patent No. 4,290,095). Applicant traverses these rejections.

The Examiner has misunderstood Applicant's description of the circuit of Fig. 6. This circuit is not prior art, but merely an exemplary circuit, developed by the assignee of this invention (Bell Sports, Inc.) for carrying out the methodology of the claimed invention. It is included to insure an enabling disclosure, not as a description of an existing prior art circuit. Nevertheless, in order to clarify this point, the specification has been amended appropriately.

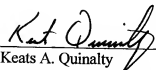
In view of the foregoing, all of these claim rejections should be withdrawn because the "art" on which they rely is not prior art. Claims 1-15 are allowable as written and an early notice of such is solicited. Should the Examiner have questions or comments regarding the foregoing Amendment, he is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required for the timely consideration of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 09-0528.

Respectfully submitted

10/2/06
Date


Keats A. Quinalty
Registration No. 46,426

Customer No. 26158
WOMBLE CARLYLE SANDRIDGE & RICE
P. O. Box 7037
Atlanta, Georgia 30357-0037
(404) 879-2423 (Telephone)
(404) 879-2923 (Facsimile)
Docket No. B162 1120.1